

Your Role in Protecting the Public – and the Profession

The mission of the AELSLAGID Board is to “protect the health, safety, and welfare of Minnesotans and act in the best interests of the public.”

You probably know this. You’ve probably seen and read that mission while on the Board website looking for licensing, renewal or other information.

What you may *not* know is that the most important resource the Board has in fulfilling that mission is you. Yes, you.

While the Board can set and oversee the education, examination and experience requirements of those it licenses, it can’t observe those licensees “out in the field.” The Board relies on you—that educated, licensed, and ethical professional out practicing in your area of expertise—to advise us when you encounter unprofessional, unethical, or unlicensed activities.

Invaluable Eyes and Ears The overwhelming majority of professionals licensed by the AELSLAGID Board are a credit to their industries and perform valuable work for the public. You are a witness to their good work, whether within your own company, as a competitor, or as a complementary professional fulfilling a function on a joint project.

Conversely, you are also a witness to work or processes that *don’t* meet the requirements you know licensees must uphold. In the course of your activities, you may even find work performed by an unlicensed, unqualified individual.

In addition to you, our licensees, we also rely on colleagues at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry Construction Codes and Licensing Division. Building officials are invaluable eyes and ears in the field, and share a similar mission, one that “ensure[s] Minnesota’s work and living environments are equitable, healthy, and safe.”

An Obligation to the Public It’s understandable that you might have reservations regarding filing a complaint against another individual or firm. But it’s important to remember that this is also part of your responsibility as a licensed professional.

MN Rule 1805.0600 advises:

“A licensee who has knowledge or reasonable grounds for believing that another member of the profession has violated any statute or rule regulating the practice of the profession shall have the duty of presenting such information to the board.

A licensee, when questioned concerning any alleged violation on the part of another person by any member or authorized representative of the board commissioned or delegated to conduct an official inquiry, shall neither fail nor refuse to divulge such information as the licensee may have relative thereto.”

A Duty to the Profession Finally, it is worth noting that the best interests of the profession also require the exposure of those who do not uphold those statutes or rules or who claim to act as a licensed professional when they are not. Those individuals water down the value of what you have worked so hard to achieve and to maintain: your education, your experience, and your licensure. They can create distrust of the profession on the part of the public, potentially damaging your livelihood and that of all those like you who operate with a high level of professionalism and ethics.

Filing a complaint is not a step taken lightly—but it is a step the public relies on you to take, when circumstances require.